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Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Violations in the education field between Sept 2014 – August 2015

It is no secret that since March 2011 till now, Bahraini people are facing dozens of violations in all life aspects. Lots were documented and some got attention. Only Education field did not get the attention it deserve since the effects of those violations in the field have no fast results. It will be shown in the near future. Most of the violations are based on discrimination to the sect. This report will focus on violations in Education field from Sept 2014 – August 2015 in points:

1. Discrimination in higher positions: Ministry of education has 2 undersecretaries and 7 assistant undersecretaries. Only one of the assistant undersecretaries is Shitte. Among 28 directorates in the ministry only one is Shitte. As you go to the lower management – School Management- less than 20% are Shitte and of course it didn't happen in the history of education that the minister of education is Shitte.

2. Bahraini graduates with degrees in Education are not being employed by ministry of education and instead Arab expatriates from all Arab Countries are imported to work in the education field. This is a continuous policy despite having an unemployment list of more than 2000 graduates in different specialities. We have to declare that all of them are Shitte. It should be noted that the acceptance of the job requirements are not applied to expatriates. Those requirement are applied only on citizens. Creative obstacles are planted in their way to prevent them from joining the profession. With the continuous policy of employing Arab expats, different back grounds and ideologies are presented in our schools even those who disbelieve others. Thousands of Shitte Bahrainis are jobless as they are being described in the official media as non-loyalists and traitors.

As a sample of how Bahraini graduates are being treated in comparison with Arab expatriates, it is very important to focus on Bahrain Teachers college graduates who are treated as teachers from the first day of entering the college as they sign the contract with ministry of education which states that. All graduates follow the Ministry of Education orders to submit a request for fingerprints in April 2014, to meet the employment requirements. The procedures had finished, but number was surprised of not receiving the letter of appointment and when inquiring they were asked to review the Human Resources Management. The graduates reviewed human resource management more than once. The graduates were told that their papers met the recruitment procedures and HR personals are waiting for a decision from "higher authorities" to proceed with employment without any reference to those whom they mean "higher authorities". Continuing to follow their cases led the Assistant Undersecretary for Human Resources to prevent them from entering the building after his promise to handle the cases himself. Graduates approach the personnel in employees Affairs who told them that letters were sent to Human resources management which they denies receiving that letter. Coming back to the personnel were informed the letter was stopped because of higher guidance. They are still waiting for the higher decision without knowing who will issue that decision and when.

3. Many of those who are practicing the teaching profession are still denied from their promotions and incentives on the background of 2011 events. Even with the announcement of the Minister himself that everyone will be given what he deserves but it was clear it is a propaganda since nothing had changed on ground. No satisfactory answer was given to any of them. Only promises which never came true.

4. Demoted teachers are still struggling to return back to their original jobs that were in back in 2011 with no vision that the ministry is going to do that. Demoted teachers had been replaced by Arab expatriates. Few cases are still in court.

5. Students are still being attacked on their way or way back to schools with no relevant reasons. This happens mostly on examination days where they have to leave schools early as they finished their exams. They are being attacked and arrested as soon as they left their schools. Cases have been reported within the month of January and June.

6. Numbers of students in Bahraini prisons are increasing day by day. The authorities used to have two buildings to imprison them in Jaw prison (3 & 4). Now, a new building is added #6 which reflects the increased number of students who must continue their studies. Most of those students are denied from having their education despite what the law states. Obstacles are built in front of them depriving them from their right to education. All of them are suffering from the ill treatment in general and during the exams days in particular. In addition, large number of them is from vocational studies, and they are not allowed at all to have their studies or exams under any condition. The procedure is no difference towards university students. What is really happening to our students in prison reflects the way that the authorities is using education as a punishment tool against students and not following its international obligations. In the near future we will be having hundreds of uneducated students because of the authority's policies.

7. The senior officials in ministry of education are using the accreditation of the universities as another tool for punishment. Since they have the right to cancel the accreditation at any time without giving causes or alternatives for the students who are at the universities at the time of the decision. The universities certificates facing this kind of punishment have mostly students studying on their own expenses. It should be clear that those students are Shiitte. This was applicable to Ponna University in India and recently to medical Universities in China regardless the number of students studying there. Bahrain had already stopped the recognition of Lebanese universities certificates in addition to stop the recognition of all qualifications and certificates awarded through distance learning. Those measures will make tens of graduates to be stripped from their degrees.

8. Discrimination in distributing the scholarships between excel students. This year it was marked as the worst since 2011. Among a sample of 164 Shiitte students who got 95%+ and filled a form with 12 scholarship choices, it was found that 33.56% were denied a scholarship. Only 17.8% got their desired scholarships. 0.7% got their 2nd choice and 4.1% got their 3rd choice. Only 22.6% got one of the top three choices. 82.2% were denied their 1st choice, 81.5% were denied their 1st or 2nd choice and 77.4% were denied from their top three choices. 78.4% of the medicine Scholarships as well as 92.6% of medical studies scholarships were hidden and no one knew who got them and based on what.It is very important to declare that three 99%+ students didn't get any scholarship with no clear reason other than their sect. A video of one 97% student was screened on ministry of education Instagram account thanking for getting a medicine scholarship. He was Sunni. Although he deserve the scholarship, but based on the criteria announced by the minister and other high officials in ministry of education that is the higher the student percentile is the higher assurance of getting his/her desired scholarship which is not reflected in the sample. (Shiitte 99+ no scholarship & Sunni 97 his 1st desire scholarship).

73 employees from various specialists at Bahrain Training Institute were arbitrary transferred to different jobs and functions. All of them were demoted. More than half of them were transferred this year without any considerations even to special needs employees (Salma ALAsfoor& Hameed Al-Alwani). Tens of high school graduates (volunteers) were employed in MOE and was assigned later to work in BTI as employers in various administrative departments where they were gathered in suspended staff offices, which form a burden on the budget of the Institute and incline of the services provided by the Institute for job seekers. An advertisement was published in India to bring in new staff. BTI became repellent to national and even foreign competencies because of ill-treatment. Many of BTI excellent staff resigned and returned to home countries others has been dispensed after accusing them of sympathizing with the x-administration. Head resigned of mechanics & cars as well as head of precision instruments & chemical engineering department. All Shiite's from Safety and Security Department has been transferred MOE schools replaced by non-qualified and untrained ones to do this job. Head of safety and security has been stripped from his post and transferred to work as a security guard in one of MOE schools. In addition to terminating the Shiitte nurse in BTU clinic replaced by a Sunni retired nurse. All of this was mentioned in the latest report of audit bureau as illegal cases that must be reviewed but no measures were taken.